

WISCONSIN WOOD

MARKETING BULLETIN



Published by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI 53711

March/ April/May 2005

WOOD MARKETING BULLETIN

The Wisconsin DNR publishes the "Wisconsin Wood" marketing bulletin every two months. It serves the timber producing and wood using industries of Wisconsin by listing items: For sale - forest products, equipment and services, wanted - forest products, equipment and services; employment opportunities. There is no charge for the Bulletin or inserting items in it. Only items deemed appropriate to the timber producing and wood processing industries will be listed. Also the Bulletin will feature forest products utilization and marketing news, safety notes, coming events, new literature, tips to the industry, and listing or employment wanted or positions that are available.

If you know of someone who would like to be on the Bulletin mailing list, please ask them to send their name, address and zip code to the return address on the back page. Also, if you have items to list, send in the form or write a letter to the return address on the back page. Repeat listing of items requires a written request each time the item is to be repeated.

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BEWARE OF METH LABS

Discoveries of illicit drug labs have increased in some parts of the country. For example, virtually no labs were discovered or seized in the Midwest and central Appalachian states in the mid-1990s, but in 2003 several thousand were seized. Like marijuana patches, these drug labs endanger anyone who discovers them. Seeking the cover of deep woods, drug producers can quickly set up these labs to create methamphetamine, a powerful, addictive stimulant that can cause violent or paranoid behavior. Labs usually produce five pounds or

more of this chemical per batch, worth thousands of dollars.

Known as "meth," "crank," or "speed," the drug is produced and refined in a series of fairly simple and fast manufacturing steps, using chemicals that are readily available and inexpensive. The chemicals used in making methamphetamine, and the process's byproducts, are highly toxic. This fact means increased danger for forest industry workers who many accidentally discover them.

Meth labs may be set up in many kinds of sheltering structures – old cabins, barns outbuildings, chicken houses, trailers, buses. Drug cooking equipment typically consists of glass bottles, tubes, and a gas burner fueled by a propane tank. The people working in these drug labs should be considered extremely dangerous, since they are fearful of being caught and may be prone to violence. But another danger is the waste material left behind once a lab has been dismantled. Meth manufacturers simply discard toxic chemicals containers and dump plastic bags of waste in the woods, abandoning hazardous substances such as sulfuric acid, lead acetate, and lithium aluminum hydride – a chemical so dangerous that even the moisture on a person's hands can cause it to explode.

Be aware of the following indicators of possible drug labs in operation:

"Posted" or "No Trespassing" signs on land that should not be posted.

Travel trailers, tents, or small mobile homes in out-of-the-way locations.

An unusual amount of vehicle traffic, especially at night in an isolated area.

Signs that people frequently visiting an unusual area.

Distinctive, obnoxious odor.

Trash in the surrounding area – plastic garbage bags, plastic or glass bottles (clear or brown), 20 or 30 gallon drums, boxes, and cardboard cylinders with metal ends and a large plug for access.

Chemical Associated with Meth Labs

Pseudoephedrine (cold tablets)
Ephedrine (cold tablets)
Red Phosphorus (Matches / road flares)
Lithium (Batteries)
Alcohol (Isopropyl or rubbing)
Toluene (Brake cleaner)
Ether (Engine starter)
Sulfuric Acid (Drain cleaner)
Salt (Table / rock)
Iodine (liquid or flakes / crystal)
Trichloroethane (Gun scrubber)
MSM (Cutting agent)
Sodium Metal
Methanol / Alcohol (Gasoline additives)
Muriatic Acid
Anhydrous Ammonia (Farm fertilizer)
Sodium Hydroxide (lye)
Acetone
Kitty Litter

Equipment Associated with Meth Labs

Pyrex dishes
Measuring cups
Laboratory beakers / glassware / mason jars
Jugs / bottles
Coffee filters, strainers, paper towels, cheesecloth, towels / bedsheets (for filtering)
Thermometer
Funnels
Blenders
Rubber tubing / gloves
Pails / buckets
Gas cans

Tape / clamps
 Internet documents / notes
 "How to Make Methamphetamine"
 books
 Aluminum foil
 Propane cylinder (20 lb.)
 Hotplates
 Plastic storage containers / ice chests

In terms of products used and trash that is left behind, pseudoephedrine is the main precursor utilized in meth labs. Its source is cold medication. Thus, numerous boxes of cold medications and the blister packs are left behind. Also, depending on the method that the cook is using, you may run into numerous matchbooks, in that the cook is extracting the red phosphorus off the striker plates. Other items may be numerous cans of starting fluid (ether), Drano / Red Devil lye (sulfuric acid), iodine tincture bottles, hydrogen peroxide bottles, and numerous acids.

Another common meth cooking method uses a combination of anhydrous ammonia and lithium batteries. Anhydrous ammonia is commonly used as a farm fertilizer, and the cooks will place the ammonia in 20-pound propane tanks that are used for gas grills. Anhydrous ammonia reacts with the brass fitting on the propane tanks and will turn that fitting blue. (Watch for this indicator.) The lithium is typically obtained from camera batteries. The cook will break the batteries open and remove the small strip of lithium inside. The last step in the cooking process usually involves the use of homemade acid gas generators. These are often made by using one-gallon gas cans or 2-liter soda bottles with plastic tubing / hosing taped to the opening. These homemade gas generators are very dangerous and can let off gas for long periods of time.

Drug Enforcement agents advise extreme caution when approaching old cabins in the woods or trailers parked along forest roads, since these structures may house meth labs. Don't risk a confrontation with a drug manufacturer. Remember that drug labs can explode at any time if an error is made in the mixing or the cooking. Leave immediately if any suspicious operation or waste materials is discovered in the woods. Do not investigate or touch the waste containers; report your discovery to your supervisor or woodlands manager, and, if it is your responsibility, to your state's narcotics agency or the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Although drug labs primarily threaten the safety of persons who discover them, they pose yet another problem for the forest products industry: disposal of waste. Landowners may be legally responsible for disposing of hazardous material found on their land, and disposing of it acceptably can be both expensive and time-consuming. Fortunately, the DEA currently is taking responsibility for meth lab cleanup and associated costs in most cases.

This safety alert was reprinted with permission from the Forest Resource Association.

Source: *Timber Bulletin*, Jan/Feb 2005.

MAKING YOUR FILING ROOM MORE PROFITABLE with Bill Guthridge

Take time to stand back and survey the filing room and equipment to be sure you are doing the best possible work for the filing profession and set guidelines and goals.

1. As saw filers we are responsible for the precision cut lumber using the smallest kerf possible with the highest production rate possible. From the time a log enters the sawmill until it exits the mill as lumber, every phase of manufacturing from the beginning of breakdown to the edging and final resawing and then on to the trimmer, it comes in contact with various kinds of saws. It is the filer's skill and knowledge in providing the best saw possible for a profitable product. So the first resolution as a filer would be to share ideas with other filers, read all the information we obtain on filing and try to attend the filing conferences and schools provided in the area to further the trade.
2. Take a good look at the filing room. Make sure that it is clean, well kept and orderly. It is the layout of the filing room efficient so that the saws coming into the filing room and exiting the filing room in a ready-to-run condition is accomplished in an orderly fashion with no lost motion? In a cold climate there should be an auxiliary source of heat in the filing room – be sure it is working properly and maintained.
3. Look at the filing maintenance equipment. Are the grinders maintained so they can operate to

the smallest degree of accuracy possible? Are they clean and well greased and oiled? Are all the bearings in good shape and the grinder itself aligned properly? Is the stretcher roll clean with good bearings and aligned so the saw tracks properly through the roll. Is the leveling slab in need of resurfacing? Are your tension and straight edges ground properly? If using a new automatic leveling machine, is it kept clean and maintained in a like-new condition so it can do the best possible work? If you are swedging and shaping saws, keep the swedges and shapers in good shape with no excessive play or worn parts such as the swedge die, anvils and side dies in the shaper. Don't forget the tooth stop in the shaper. If using Stellite, keep the Stellite machine clean and adjusted with plenty of spare molds and any other extra parts on hand that the make and model of the machine requires. Pay attention to the milling machine that resurfaces the guides whether for band saw or edger. Make sure they are clean after each use with good bearings and sharp cutters that are ground to the proper angles. As with the band saw leveling slabs, the circle leveling blocks should also be in good shape. There are just a few of the many things to look at when checking your filing equipment.

4. Look over the manpower situation in the filing room and if bringing new filers on board, whether they are hired from the outside or promoted from within, make sure they are well trained for the job, familiar with the mill layout including all safety devices and lock-outs and have an aptitude for the job. This includes getting along with the other filers.
5. In the sawmill itself if you are responsible for alignment make sure all the machine centers are properly aligned in regards to being plumb and level and square. This begins with the "V" rail for the head rig and extends to the head shaft on the sawmill trimmer and everything in between.
6. If working with the millwrights in doing alignment procedures, make them your best friends. People working together make the work a

lot easier, faster and better. No matter who a person is, we can always learn something from them. It is a good idea to share ideas with those you work with. Lots of times they have input to a situation from an entirely different angle, which could be valuable

7. Have a good rapport with management because they have to pay the bills. Do not be afraid to ask for new or better equipment and make suggestions to help the mill run better. Be prepared to document the reasons for all of your requests. When new equipment requests are approved be sure and ask for factory representation for initial installation and startup assistance. Listen carefully to management and try to understand their reasoning because they have the overall picture of the total production operation. As an example maybe this year you won't get your machinery request because of a backlog of lumber in the dry kilns and a new dry kiln is on order to smooth out the production flow. But don't give up and keep it on the back burner for another time.
8. Prepare work schedules for the employees so they don't get burned out by working too many hours.

Keep a list of goals and review them periodically this year to plan for the future. Share these goals with management. They may have some insights to help you achieve the goals.

Guthridge has worked in the lumber industry for 40 years, serving as a head saw filer for a large pine mill and also as a consultant abroad, in addition to operating his own saw shop. He is a member of the Western Sawfilers Assn.'s Hall of Fame. Address filing questions to S.L. Filing, P.O. 2268, Montgomery, AL 36102-2268, or fax to 334-834-4525.

Source: *Southern Lumberman*, March 2005.

HARDWOOD FLOORING SHIPMENTS RISE

Memphis, Tenn. – Hardwood flooring shipments reached nearly 673 million bd.ft. in 2004, the highest level for shipments since 1966, according to NOFMA: The Wood Flooring Manufacturers Association. The 2004 shipments level (672,805,000 bd.ft.)

reflects a steady upward trend in flooring shipments that has been ongoing since 1991. NOFMA attributes the strong numbers to enduring popularity of wood floors and the continued strength of new home construction and residential remodeling. Source: *Wood Digest*, March 2005.

MARATHON CITY, WISCONSIN –

Granite Valley Forest Products Inc. recently received a federal grant from the Department of Agriculture to offset the cost of a new wood-waste-fired boiler that will replace its natural gas-fired boiler.

Kerry Romsa and Russ Wendorf, company owners, estimate the new boiler will offer an annual fuel cost savings of \$113,000. The ever-increasing cost of natural gas was making its difficult to operate.

"The price of natural gas has increased 300 percent since the date we started," Romsa said. "We felt we needed to look for alternate sources of fuel. We generate a fair amount of wood waste and we thought this was a good fit."

The company will break ground on the new boiler sometime this spring.

In addition, Granite Valley built a 90 x 100 foot steel building that will inventory some production.

Granite Valley operates a 20 acre concentration yard and is equipped with an S282 Newman Planer, straight line rip saw, 2 million feet of dry storage and has a dry kiln capacity of 210,000 board feet. Species handled include: Basswood, Hard and Soft Maple, Aspen, white pine, Cherry, Hickory, White Birch and various other Hardwoods.

Source: *National Hardwood Magazine*, March 2005.

N.A. FORESTS EXPAND THANKS TO ECONOMIC INCENTIVE

By Dr. Patrick Moore

(NAPS) – Dear Dr. Moore:

We hear a lot about tropical forests, but what we can tell me about the state of our own forests here in North America?

The news is good. North American forests cover about the same area of land as they did 100 years ago. Over the past decade our forests have expanded by nearly 10 million acres, according to satellite tracking and two successive reports from the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization (State of the World's Forests, 1997 and 2001).

There are two main reasons for this. One is that advances in agriculture have

enabled us to grow about five times as much food on each acre of farmland. As a result, we've been able to feed a growing population without converting any more forests into farms.

Another reason, surprisingly enough, is that North Americans use a lot of wood. We've been led to believe that this is bad, that each time we buy a piece of land we cause a little more forest to be lost.

On the contrary, every purchase of wood sends a signal into the marketplace to plant more trees and grow more valuable product. If we don't continue to use wood for building houses, making paper or crafting furniture, there will be little incentive to keep land forested. It could just as easily be cleared for development or to grow something else.

This is a win for both the environment and the economy. The land stays forested, thus providing habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife. Timber creates jobs, fuels economies and generates hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue.

So long as we plant enough trees to satisfy the demand for wood, North American forests will be sustainable.

Between them, Canada and the United States have about 1.75 billion acres of forest. About one billion acres are used to grow timber while the other 750 million acres are composed of parks, wilderness and non-commercial forest land.

Trees are the most abundant of the world's renewable resources and will continue to grow over much of the earth's surface indefinitely.

I believe that a sensible environmentalist would weigh the facts and choose both to grow more trees and use more wood.

(Questions may be e-mailed to Dr. Moore at

Patrick@SensibleEnvironmentalism.com.)

Source: *TimberLine*, March 2005.1

A NEW SOURCE OF BIRCH AND ASPEN PULPWOOD?

By Dave Wester
Southern Wisconsin has long been known for producing hardwood saw timber. Pulpwood, however, often remains in the woods to become over-mature and rot. Steep terrain, long skidding distances and long hauls to paper mills have discouraged loggers and timber buyers from looking for pulpwood in that part of the state.

That may be changing, however, if competition for northern sources of birch and aspen continues to increase and stumpage becomes increasingly difficult to

obtain. FutureWood Corp. of Hayward, WI recently purchased and harvested a birch and aspen sale near Sparta, WI to test the feasibility of harvesting pulpwood in the southwestern part of the state.

"We bought the job on trial and error," said Jere Hamel, wood buyer for FutureWood for central and southern Wisconsin. He said his company wanted to see if it could make it work.

"What was most intriguing to us was the quantity of white birch and aspen. They're the only two species on this job," Hamel said.

If the challenges of harvesting pulpwood on steep terrain weren't enough, this sale had yet another challenge. The haul road had to cross the Elroy-Sparta trail, one of the most popular bike trails in the state. Lenore Schroeder, who helps manage the trail for WDNR, said her agency estimates that the trail gets about 57,000 visitors a year. At least a dozen bicycles passed by during the short we observed the trail as we visited the sale in mid-October.

Because Hamel was aware of possible reactions from bicycles, he coordinated with the DNR in arranging the harvest. "We've worked hand in hand with this, along with the consulting forester. The DNR has been wonderful to work with," Hamel said. Even though the harvest was adjacent to the trail and logging trucks crossed it, Schroeder said the DNR had not received any complaints from bicyclists.

Hamel hired a local contractor to build the road. The contractor was familiar with building skid and haul roads in hilly country, and Hamel said that made the job a lot easier. "He far exceeded my expectations for the road," Hamel said. "He basically taught me how to build roads in the hills."

All of the trees were felled with hand-held chainsaws, Hamel said Dan Nikolay's Ponsse harvester probably could have felled some of the trees, but ravines and steep terrain would have prevented the machine from doing the entire job. Trees were instead skidded to landings where they were de-limbed and cut to length by the harvester.

Some of the trees were skidded a mile with the grapple, then processed with the harvester and loaded at the main landing. Other trees were skidded a half-mile to a landing, processed, then forwarded another half mile to the main landing. All trees were skidded at least a half-mile.

The white birch pulpwood will eventually be trucked to Fraser Paper in

Park Falls, WI, after spending a year or more aging in a FutureWood yard. The aspen went to FutureWood's yard at Hixton, WI for later distribution to various markets.

Fraser Paper and American Excelsior of Rice Lake, WI are two of FutureWood's most consistent markets. American Excelsior makes erosion control products. Fraser Paper Park Falls mill manufactures specialized paper products, primarily from white birch pulpwood.

FutureWood started as a chipping company but converted to round-wood production when the demand for chips waned. Hamel said the company now does very little chipping.

Because Fraser Paper is one of FutureWood's major markets, the company is interested in finding new sources of white birch. "Birch is abundant on the hillsides in Southern Wisconsin," Hamel said. "The problem is it's very difficult to get out."

The U.S. Forest Service's 1996 Wisconsin Forest Statistics show that white birch stands comprise about two percent of the forested land in the combined area of southwestern and central Wisconsin, and aspen stands comprise about nine percent of the forested land. (Monroe County, where this harvest was located, is considered part of the Central Wisconsin Unit, rather than the Southwest Unit, in the Forest Service's statistics.) Aspen and birch are also components of oak stands and other timber types.

The harvest took place on about half of a 120-acre parcel that was owned by a man who lives in Kentucky. The landowner was represented by Julian "Hutch" Hutchinson, a consulting forester from Sparta, WI.

"Hutch" has been working in the area since 1958, when he became the first DNR forester in Monroe County, after graduating from Purdue University with a degree in forest management. After about eight years he took a job at Fort McCoy and was in charge of establishing various resource management programs on 60,000 acres, eventually supervising as many as 40 people. He retired from that job in 1990 and started his consulting business, Hutchinson Resource Management.

Hutch had previously worked with the landowner, Don Jordan, on an oak timber sale. When Jordan entered his land into the state's managed forest (MFL) program and the plan called for harvesting the mature aspen and birch stands, Jordan asked Hutch for help. Hutch said this was

the first time he had seen white birch from Monroe County going to Park Falls. He also thought it was the largest total pulpwood sale he had ever assisted with in Monroe County.

"I'm not sure if this will be a forerunner of things to come," Hutch said. "To hand-cut pulpwood on steep hills . . . has just not been feasible, but they've made this work."

Hutch, like Hamel, believes Southwest Wisconsin is an untapped source of aspen and birch. "There's a lot of white birch around," he said. He explained how the two species had reclaimed old farm fields that were abandoned due to steepness when farm tractors replaced horses. "Now these stands are getting up there, 40, 50, 60 years old and I think many of them could be logged," he said.

Hutch cautioned, however, that harvesting all birch and aspen stands may not be appropriate. "Aesthetically, and for many other reasons, white birch and aspen area nice to have," he said.

Hutch expects that the two species will stump sprout on the Monroe County sale, and the species composition will not change appreciably as a result of the clearcut. The birch and aspen were not actually growing together but were in separate stands, and Hutch thinks each stand will rejuvenate to the species that was harvested.

Hutch complimented the DNR for being flexible with its MFL plans. "A lot of times when I see them, the plans have been around eight or ten years. Things are different than when the plan was written. I have to compliment the DNR because they are willing to adjust. I think as time goes along we're going to see a lot more of them fall into that category," he said.

Hutch worked closely with Chris Walroth on this sale. Walroth had been a DNR forester for Monroe County for about three months when she wrote the MFL plan for the Jordan property. She had previously worked in Northern Wisconsin where the land is relatively flat. "To come here and write management plans on terrain such as this was a little tricky," she said. She wasn't sure about the economic feasibility of the harvest or of the appropriateness of clearcutting the steep slopes. "I had to get some other feedback," she said.

Walroth said that DNR focuses on forest management when it writes management plans, and the agency doesn't spend much time second guessing market or access conditions. "We figure if there is a way, it

will be harvested. If there isn't a way, then we'll have to adjust the practice," she said.

The harvest was scheduled for 2005, but the landowner expressed an interest in doing it a year earlier. "They have that kind of flexibility" Walroth said.

Landowners who want to harvest early are easier to accommodate than those who might prefer to avoid harvesting. Walroth said she had worked with a few landowners who were reluctant to perform scheduled harvests. "When they start looking at the consequences as to the back taxes they'll have to pay, they decide that maybe it's best to just go along with the plan," she said.

The MFL plan is an agreement between the landowner and the state. Hutch believes the landowner should also have a written agreement with the logger, even if the two are the best of friends. "A year or two goes by and you can have friendships really get on the rocks when they misunderstand or can't remember what was said. I believe in having a good contract and a performance bond . . . There's seldom a problem when you have those two things," he said.

Hutch felt that the Monroe County sale went smoothly because the landowner, the timber purchaser, the logger, the DNR and the consulting forester all worked as a team. The sale was not driven by any one of them. He said when that happens, things work well.

Southwestern Wisconsin has long had a problem finding markets for its pulpwood, but increasing competition for stumpage elsewhere may make it more desirable. Steep slopes and higher road building costs are disadvantages, but the good news is that less competition means stumpage costs are low. This sale suggests that successful bids, in dollars per cord, may be well down into the single digits. If the strong demand for stumpage continues, the Monroe County sale may prove to be a sign of things to come.

Source: *TPR*, January 2005

PAPER COMPANIES LOOK TO BRAZIL FOR FUTURE FIBER NEEDS

According to a recent Bloomberg report, Aracruz Celulose SA, Latin America's biggest pulp exporter, may build a \$1 billion mill in Brazil to boost production, Chief Executive Carlos Augusto Aguiar said. Aracruz, based in Aracruz in Espírito Santo state, is studying five sites in Brazil for the mill, which would have capacity of

about 1 million metric tons of pulp a year, Aguiar said at a new conference in Rio de Janeiro. The company will decide on the project this year. The mill would take seven to eight years to build, he said.

Aguiar is taking advantage of production costs in Brazil that are about half those in Sweden or Finland to expand output. The lower costs also are luring foreign companies such as International Paper Company and Stora Enso to the South American country.

"We all know that 10 years down the line, the big growth in the pulp paper industry is going to come in South America," said Henri Parkkinen, an analyst at Opstock Securities in Helsinki. "Companies want to make sure now that they'll have access to that low-cost raw material."

Aguiar said in a November interview that Aracruz aims to boost production to 5.5 million tons in a decade from about 2.5 million tons in 2004. International Paper, North America's biggest paper maker, announced plans in December to spend as much as \$1.3 billion on a new mill in Brazil.

Aguiar said the Veracel mill in the south of Brazil's Bahia state, a \$1.3 billion joint venture with Finland's Stora Enso Oyj, would begin production in May or June and reach output this year of 365,000 metric tons. The mill will reach full capacity of 900,000 tons next year.

Nils Grafstrom, president of Latin American operations for Helsinki-based Stora Enso, the world's biggest paper maker, said the company would seek to make further acquisitions in Brazil and elsewhere in South America. The company also expects to eventually expand the Veracel mill to double production, although no formal decision on that has been taken with Aracruz.

"We look for opportunities that can add aggregate value," said Grafstrom. "I would say that the huge interest in the region from the pulp and paper companies is very much linked to the lower fiber costs. "Stora Enso's main focus is to get the Veracel mill up and running, he said. At full existing capacity Veracel will provide Stora with about 450,000 tons of pulp a year out of the 14 million tons of pulp, paper and board it produces in the world.

The cost of wood to make one ton of pulp in Brazil is between \$60 and \$65, compared with double that amount in Sweden or Finland, said Grafstrom. Eucalyptus trees grown on land serving the

Veracel mill can be harvested after seven years compared with up to ten times that amount of time for some kinds of wood grown in Scandinavia.

Source: *The Northern Logger & Timber Processor*, February 2005.

TREND IN HARDOOD FLOORING IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE

Hardwood flooring shipments reached nearly 673MMBF in 2004, the highest level for shipments since 1966, according to NOFMA: The Wood Flooring Manufacturers Assn. The 2004 shipments level reflects a steady upward trend in flooring shipments that has been ongoing since 1991. NOFMA attributes the strong numbers to enduring popularity of wood floors and the continued strength of new home construction and residential remodeling.

NOFMA also believes the trend toward "green" or environmentally friendlier building practices has helped fuel demand for wood. More consumers, builders and architects are using hardwood flooring because of its environmental attributes. Like all wood products, hardwood flooring comes from a renewable resource, making it inherently sustainable. Wood flooring is also a significant contributor to improved indoor air quality and reduced allergens.

Also, as demand for environmentally certified building products grows, flooring manufacturers are working to fulfill that demand. Environmental certification refers to the process by which third-party certification agencies, such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (FSI) and those accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), attest to the environmental claims of product manufacturers and distributors. These third party certifying agencies establish guidelines for the responsible management of forests and systems for tracking wood products derived from such forests through the manufacturing and distribution system. Of the two certification programs, FSC is the most recognized among end users but also the most difficult for flooring manufacturers to participate in. The biggest hurdle NOFMA members face in this realm is the lack of FSC-certified lumber on the market that is suitable for flooring.

Source: *Southern Lumberman*, April 2005

TRAINING REQUIRED ON STATE TIMBER SALES

Effective for timber sales sold after January 1, 2006, the Department of

Natural Resources will be implementing a training requirement for its State timber sales. DNR has long encouraged trained loggers and believes proper training promotes maximum benefit to the environment as well as the health and safety of contractors. It also further illustrates the professionalism in the logging profession that has made great strides in the last several years.

The recent forest certification effort on our public lands has heightened the requirement to “*requiring* appropriate training” of its logging contractors. This is needed to maintain certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification standard. The requirement will apply to all DNR timber sales on State land sold after January 1, 2006. It is not, as yet, a requirement on all of the County Forests however, they too will need to address this issue in the very near future. Check with your local County Forest Administrator on current requirements for the individual County Forests. The State will adopt training specifications of the Wisconsin SFI Training Standard. The standard will need to be met during the 2005 calendar year in order to qualify by January 1, 2006. This will align the State with requirements already in place for most of Wisconsin’s forest industry. The Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA) will continue to maintain logger training records and provide much of the training. The standard requires:

WISCONSIN SFI TRAINING STANDARD – 2005

Adopted August 10, 2004

Professional Training – (once every two years). Choose one of the following: Chainsaw Safety, Mechanized Training, Log Truck Driver Training, Business Management, Cross Training for Loggers and Foresters, Invasive Species, or Threatened and Endangered Species.

1st Aid/CPR: One time only for SFI, however OSHA requires First Aid every 3 years and CPR annually

Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMP) One time only however refresher information will be incorporated into all other training offered.

Continuing Education - (8 hours annually). Includes Logger’s conferences and continuing education workshops offered in the 2005 SFI Workshop Brochure

*At a minimum, The Contract Holder and one “in-woods” person actively responsible for each logging site must

meet the above criteria. In some cases, the Contract Holder may also be the in-woods person.

**Other training not conducted by FISTA may qualify to satisfy the standard. Check with FISTA (1-800-551-2656 or www.fistausa.org) for pre-approval and to verify a session qualifies.

The phase-in of the training requirements will provide several months time for contractors whose training is not up-to-date, to receive the necessary training. If you are unsure whether your training is current, or to check on upcoming training sessions, contact FISTA (1-800-551-2656) or www.fistausa.org). Upon successful completion of the 2005 training requirements, FISTA, upon request, will be able to provide a “Proof of Completion” documenting your completion of the training standard. This “Proof of Completion” will need to be provided to the administering forester prior to initiating a sale. You may bid prior to completing the training standard but as a successful bidder you will be responsible for ensuring that you, or your subcontractor, has achieved and maintained the necessary training. This training is an on-going requirement. In 2006 it will be necessary to complete the required training to continue to be eligible for State contracts in 2007, and so forth.

Our collective efforts at improving the way we do business, including better timber sale set up, training, and monitoring improve our credibility with the general public. Foresters, loggers, and industry must all be a part of this if we are to ensure our ability to keep our forests healthy through sound active management. By Jeff Barkley, DNR County Forest/Public Lands Specialist (608) 264-9217 jeffrey.barkley@dnr.state.wi.us
Source: TPA, April 2005

COATED PAPER MARKETS POST STRONG REBOUND Growth in demand expected to continue following largest gain since 1997 by Harold M. Cody, Contributing Editor

In early 2004, the outlook for coated papers was promising but hardly anyone expected the surge that led to the strongest gain in U.S. coated paper markets since 1997. Based on initial year-end data (which even if revised – as they usually are – likely would not change the fact that it was a great year), demand surged for the third straight year, rising at a robust rate of

nearly 7% for both coated groundwood and free sheet.

This growth is even more impressive given that the big 13% demand surge in 1997 followed on the heels of a 10% drop in 1996. Overall consumption set a new record at 11.5 million tons and the 800,000-ton increase in demand is one of the largest on record.

A strong U.S. economy provided the underlying boost to demand, as print advertising and marketing expenditures posted solid gains in many of coated paper’s major end-uses. In the key magazine and periodical market, ad pages grew 3.5 – 4% in 2004, while direct mail posted solid gains as well, with the large and important catalogs market posting a very strong rebound. End-use market growth in 2004 expanded on the more modest gains posted in the 2002-03 period and resulted in an expansion of coated groundwood demand of almost one million tons in the past two years.

U.S. mills shared fully in the gains, with coated free sheet output rising 7.3%, the first increase in three years, while coated groundwood output rose 5.5%. Groundwood mills operated at nearly full capacity, resulting in tight markets. The strike-related downtime at UPM’s large coated groundwood mill in Canada is one contributor to this tightness and is also a factor behind continued growth in coated groundwood imports from Europe, despite the weak dollar. If the strike lasts until the seasonally strong third quarter 2005 period, its effect on paper availability could be pronounced.

While imports continued to gain market share in 2004, they posted the smallest increase since 2001, when imports lost share as demand plummeted in the 2001 downturn. Both freesheet and groundwood imports rose over 2003 levels to an estimated total of 3.2 million tons. At 28% of consumption, this is imported paper’s largest share on record.

Pricing Impacts. From a customer or buyer perspective the news isn’t good, as prices have and will continue to rise in line with booming demand. Since mid-2004, prices on large volume coated grades are up by about \$100/ton. Given a tight supply situation, particularly in mechanical grades, prices are likely to rise further.

An executive at one of the world’s largest producers in Europe recently summarized the producer’s view by stating that “now is the time to adjust prices.” Some major producers, such as IP and MeadWestvaco, announced price hikes on

coated papers targeted for March 1, and thus most producers were targeting increases for sometime in first quarter 2005.

If markets continue strong into the spring, pricing could reach levels not seen since 2000, and will likely post double-digit year-over-year gains in 2005. One big question is now this sudden price surge impacts demand going forward. Historically, large and sudden price swings temper demand growth in segments particularly sensitive to substrate costs, notably catalogs and magazines, which trim usage to counter rising costs.

While this robust expansion will likely slow in 2005, the outlook is excellent for coated paper mills around the world, and there should be strong gains in profitability as prices surge. While growth is expected to be restrained by rising prices, demand is likely to remain solid and markets tight.

As the full impact of higher prices and slowing end-use demand come to bear, overall demand growth could slow noticeably next year. Also, capacity could begin to expand next year as several projects possibly move ahead, particularly for coated groundwood. However, producers may be a reticent to expand if they view this as a short-term surge, and thus major expansions seem unlikely before 2006 as producers look to see how long the current expansion can last.
Source: *Paper Age*, March/April 2005

INCREASED TIMBER HARVESTING PREDICTED FOR NATIONAL FORESTS by Joe Dysart

A new forest management rule adopted in January will enable local forest managers to fast-track new timber harvesting and related activities, thanks to a provision that loosens up the need to develop environmental impact statements for such changes.

"The new rule will improve the way we work with the public by making forest planning more open, understandable and timely," says Sally Collins, U.S. Forest Service associate. "It will enable Forest Service experts to respond more rapidly to changing conditions, such as wildfires, and to emerging threats, such as invasive species."

Essentially, the new rule neither promotes nor discourages any particular forest use, such as recreation, grazing, timber harvesting or mineral development. Instead, such decisions will be made on a forest-by-forest basis, based on local

conditions, scientific findings and public opinion, according to Collins.

However, U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has indicated that stabilization of watersheds, reduction of fire fuels near rural communities, greater acceptance of off-road vehicles and commercialization of recreational uses of national forests will be major priorities in the current Bush Administration.

Collins also says forest management plans under the new rule will be more strategic in nature, and that plan changes without "on-the-ground effects" will not require an Environmental Impact Statement. "This rule applies the most current thinking in nature resources management," she adds.

In lieu of emphasizing Environmental Impact Statements, the new rule promulgates a new decision-making tool for the Forest Service, requiring forest managers to weigh economic and recreational interests along with environmental concerns when considering changes to local forest service plans.

The new tool, known as an Environmental Management System, integrates forest planning with implementation so that forest management plans can be dynamic, and outcomes of project-level decisions can be assessed for continuous improvement, according to Collins.

A key feature of the EMS is a requirement for independent audits of Forest Service work. Collins says these audits will help the Forest Service be more fully accountable for its management of more than 192 million acres of public land.

Ultimately, the new rule changes the way the U.S. Forest Service does business in 155 national forests and 20 grasslands, and reduces the amount of time required to make changes to preexisting forest management plans from five to seven years, to about two to three years, according to Collins.

The new rule also requires forest service managers to engage in comprehensive evaluations of changes to forest plans every five years to ensure that the changes are meeting goals and objectives, Forest Service managers will be held personally responsible for meeting plan goals and objectives, Collins says.

Plan changes that do require on-the-ground changes will still be subject to Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments, as governed by the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, Collins

says. Environmental Impact analysis used in such statements and assessments will be provided by local Forest Service staff under the new rule.

While the Forest Service has not released details on how the agency plans to ensure that on-the-ground changes trigger Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments, Collins says such details will be released in a proposed rule, which the agency plans to release shortly for public comment.

Meanwhile, the new rule also moves many detailed procedural requirements to the Forest Service's "directive system," which is an internal agency how-to manual that is currently under development. The proposed conceptual components of the directive system are expected to be released for public comment before spring.

Included in those components will be agency guidelines governing timber harvesting.

Specific requirements of the new rule direct forest managers to take into account the best available science to protect air, water, wildlife and other important natural resources at the Landscape level. Management decisions will consider ecological, social and economic sustainability factors that are consistent with broadly accepted international standards, according to Collins.

Plant and wildlife protections will be provided by first conserving ecosystems as a whole, with more targets protections for listed species and other species of concern. In practice, that will mean that the Forest Service will be more concerned with protecting a forest's overall ecosystem, rather than focusing on the viability of individual species.

The new rule represents the latest modernization of the The National Forest Management Act of 1976, which mandated the Forest Service to develop, periodically revise and amend all national forest and grassland plans. The first generation of forest plans was developed in 1982, and there are currently 49 revisions to those plans under development.

Forest managers overseeing forest and grassland plans currently in the midst of revisions may opt to place those plans in flux under the new rule, or wait to use the new rule for their next revision or amendment, according to Collins. Forest and grassland plans not currently under revision automatically fall under the auspices of the new rule.

The rule also replaces a previous rule signed into law during the last few days of

the Clinton Administration, which imposed a ban on new road building in the country's national forest in an effort to emphasize conservation over commercial use of the nation's forests. During the Clinton years, logging in the national forests was nearly halted, and a number of restoration plans were instituted to buttress old-growth tree forests.

The Bush Administration consistently voiced its intention to overturn the ban ever since it first assumed office, but resistance from some states, tribes and local communities forced the Administration to develop a more cautious strategy, especially just months prior to the most recent presidential election.

Environmentalists, led by legislators like House Representative Tom Udall (D-N.M.), have groused the new rule will promote logging and other commercial uses of the national forests, while giving environmental considerations a back seat.

Collins disagrees. "This rule takes a 21st century approach to delivering the full range of values that Americans want for their quality of life: clean air and water, habitat for wildlife and sustainable uses that will be available for future generations to enjoy," she says. The new rule and supporting documents are available for viewing at www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma. Source: *Forest Products Equipment*, March 2005.

SALES OF NEW SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES TOP 1 MILLION, SET RECORD

Washington – For the second year in a row, sales of new single-family homes have topped 1 million and set yet another new annual sales record for the fourth straight year, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

"The sales pace for the fourth quarter was almost identical to the third quarter, and while we anticipate a slight decline in 2005, the performance of the housing market has achieved a very high plateau," NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders said in a release.

While all four regions recorded a solid sales increase, the South posted the highest at 546,000 sales, with the West trailing with 345,000.

The NAHB expects the housing market to remain strong as a growing economy helps offset the impact of slowly rising mortgage interest rates. According to NAHB President David Wilson, a custom homebuilder from

Ketchum, ID, "Builders are geared up for another solid year and expect the demand from home buyers to remain resilient. We expect somewhat higher mortgage rates, but they will still be at reasonably affordable levels to accommodate families who are shopping for a new home."

Source: *Wood & Wood Products*, February 2005

STUDY EXAMINES IMPACT OF ILLEGAL LOGGING

A recently released study attempts to quantify the economic impact of illegally produced roundwood in the global market. Conducted by Seneca Creek Associates LLC and Wood Resources International LLC, the study analyzes the impacts of illegally produced and traded wood products on the ability of U.S. producers to export into key overseas markets and reviews the various institutional and government initiatives that have been proffered to address illegal logging. Specifically, the study examined the flow of suspicious roundwood into lumber and plywood and found that it depresses world wood prices by 7 to 16 percent on average, depending on the product. Were there no illegally harvested wood in the global market, the study estimates the value of U.S. wood exports could increase by over \$460 million each year. The report cites the wide disparity between the cost of operating using legal wood supply as compared with illegally logged timber. If that spread can be reduced, the report concludes, the incentive for illegal logging activity would diminish. The report notes that some proposals to address the illegal logging problem could actually increase the cost of legitimate producers without increasing the cost of illegal sources, thus inadvertently exacerbating the problem. A complete copy of the report is available in PDF format on the AS&PA website, www.afandpa.org. Source: *Forest Products Journal*, March 2005

Publications

Powder-coating handbook now available
Available for purchase is the revised and expanded third edition of "*Powder Coating – The Complete Finisher's Handbook*."

This comprehensive text, published by the Powder Coating Institute in 200 covers all aspects of setting up and running a powder-coating operation.

This third edition contains many chapters completely rewritten and updated, a glossary of powder-coating terms, an expanded troubleshooting guide, and nearly 500 pages of the latest information.

The book is available for \$95 plus \$10 shipping in the United States. Those interested can contact the PCI office at (703) 684-1770 for an order form or go to the Publications & Materials section of the PCI website at www.powdercoating.org.

Coming Events

Kiln Drying Short Course

The 28th Annual Kiln Drying Short Course will be held August 15-18, 2005 at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus. The University of Minnesota's Department of Bio-based Products sponsors the course in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Forest Ecology and Management.

The course is designed to provide basic training for dry kiln operators and supervisors, but anyone desiring to learn more about kiln construction, kiln operation and wood-moisture relations is welcome and encouraged to attend. No previous drying experience or training is necessary.

For more information contact: Harlan Petersen, Department of Bio-based Products, University of Minnesota, 2004 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 (612) 624-3407; Fax (612) 625-6286, e-mail harlan@umn.edu
Website: <http://www.cnr.umn.edu/bp/extension/shortcourses/kdsc/php>

Timber and Forest Products

50,000 BF 4/4 White Oak, KD, rough trims length 1' & 2' only. Price \$350 per M FOB mill Columbus rate. Contact W. Preston Germain, GERMAIN LUMBER COMPANY, INC. Pittsburgh, PA 15215 Phone (412)782-3240 FAX (412) 781-2552 germain@verizon.net

Firewood bundles packaged for camping, fireplaces, etc. Call for specifications and prices. Contact Wood Creek Sawmill, S 14441 CTH B, Eleva, WI 54738 (715) 579-2309 or (715) 926-3212.

Firewood business – contracts and equipment for sale. To include multitek firewood processor conveyor 300 collapsible metal crates pallets, training etc. Business takes in \$140,000 plus per year. For information call (888) 671-2825, owner retiring due to health. Wilderness Products & Services, Inc. 5846N County Road M, Loretta, WI 54896 (715) 266-3802.

Plywood, OSB, particleboard, and/or MDF cut to size or shape according to your specifications. From high-end uses like furniture and architectural to lower grades suitable for boxes or pallet decks. Plywood blocks for pallets are also available. Joe Campbell, Steel City Lumber Company, P.O. Box 36189, Birmingham, AL 35236 (800) 733-1907, FAX (205) 733-1709 E-mail joecampbell@bellsouth.net

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call (920) 833-6557 or e-mail to DRHANDLES@NEW.RR.COM

20,000 B.F. rough lumber for sale and small red pine logs 1" – 4" 8 foot long. Lumber Jack, 9810 S. Thompson Road, Foxboro, WI 54836 (715) 399-2783

Blue pine. Contact Hafen Farm, N7543 Trow Road, Brooklyn, WI 53521 (608) 862-3331

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Danco – rip saws; Webster – vibrating conveyors; Jonsered – chainsaws; Dixon – sawmills, edgers, conveyors, log turners, hydra-dogs, pallet notchers, debarkers, slab edgers, trimsaws, decks, rollcases, small hydraulic loaders and trailers, trailers with loaders for 4 wheelers; Safe-T-Shelters – storm shelters; over 1200 used electric motors and electrical equipment; used sawmill machinery. Contact Rusch Equipment, 400 Rusch Road, Antigo, WI 54409, Phone (715) 627-4361, Fax (715) 627-4375.

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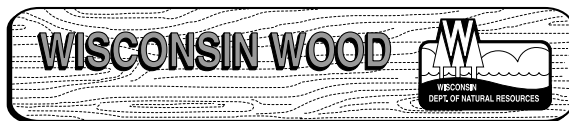
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DEADLINE FOR ITEMS TO BE LISTED IS THE 20TH OF: FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, and DECEMBER.



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